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WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE 4-H CLUB PROGRAM?

An Anniversary Year Study of Central States Figures
1914-1939

By
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Some figures attract attention. Some figures attract more attention than others.

If figures call attention to certain facts or illustrate certain trends, they become more interesting.

The figures in this brief study illustrate some of the facts, situations, and trends in the 4-H Club program in the Central States. Wherever possible, they cover 5-year intervals; 1914, 1919, 1924, 1929, 1934, and 1939. They are based on the annual reports of all extension agents in this region. They are not compiled, nor should they be used as a basis of comparison between States.

Some figures attract attention. Some figures attract more attention than others.

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WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE 4-H CLUB PROGRAM?

I. INTRODUCTION

From the time the 4-H Clubs became nation-wide in scope with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, these clubs have been carried on cooperatively by the United States Department of Agriculture, the State colleges of agriculture, and the counties as an integral part of extension work in agriculture and home economics in each of the 13 States in the Central Region - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

At 5-year intervals since 1924, it has been the pleasure of the writer to prepare a summary during the interval concerned, of the accomplishments, of the 4-H Clubs in the Central States. Each of these summaries has been entitled "Where Are We Going in the 4-H Club Program?"

The year 1939 marks the end of the first 25 years of extension work on a nation-wide basis. Therefore, this particular summary becomes an anniversary year summary, 1914 through 1939 - a quarter-century of 4-H Club achievement.

Certain data necessarily are omitted because they were not included in the annual reports of the earlier years.

Conclusions are left to the reader.

II. SUPERVISION AND PERSONNEL

In this anniversary-year summary, it is appropriate to list the names of the State club leaders who have been largely responsible for 4-H Club achievement over this quarter-century period.

State Club Leaders in the Central States, 1912-39.

<u>State</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>
Illinois.....	J. H. Green.....	1915-19
	J. H. Baldwin.....	1919-22
	H. F. Wolter.....	1923
	E. I. Pilchard.....	1924 to date
Indiana.....	Z. M. Smith.....	1912 to date
Iowa.....	E. C. Bishop.....	1912-17
	P. C. Taff.....	1917 to date

The statistical data in this summary were furnished by the Surveys and Reports Section. Division of Field Coordination.

Kansas.....	O. E. Hall.....	1915-20
	A. W. Morrish.....	1920-25
	M. H. Coe.....	1925 to date
Kentucky.....	Otis Kercher.....	1917-19
	C. W. Buckler.....	1920-24
	J. W. Whitehouse.....	1924 to date
Michigan.....	E. C. Lindemann.....	1914-18
	R. A. Turner.....	1918-24
	A. G. Kettunen.....	1925 to date
Minnesota.....	T. A. Erickson.....	1912 to date
Missouri.....	R. H. Emberson.....	1914-23
	T. T. Martin.....	1923 to date
Nebraska.....	Hulda Peterson.....	1913
	L. T. Skinner.....	1914-15
	C. W. Watson.....	1916-19
	L. I. Frisbie.....	1919 to date
North Dakota.....	D. W. Galehouse.....	1916-17
	Louise Fitzgerald.....	1917-20
	H. E. Rilling.....	1920 to date
Ohio.....	W. H. Palmer.....	1916 to date
South Dakota.....	W. M. Mair.....	1913-18
	Paul Scarbro.....	1919-26
	H. M. Jones.....	1926 to date
Wisconsin.....	T. L. Bewick.....	1914 to date

Aside from the State club leader, the number of persons on the supervisory staff for the 4-H Clubs is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.-Supervisory 4-H Club staff in Central States, 1924-39

State	Number of counties in State	Assistant State leaders and district agents				County club agents			
		1939	1934	1929	1924	1939	1934	1929	1924
Illinois.....	102	6	4	3	2	4	3	1	1
Indiana.....	92	7	6	5	4	-	5	8	-
Iowa.....	99	6	4	4	5	40	1	5	2
Kansas.....	105	4	3	2	1	6	1	4	2
Kentucky.....	120	8	6	6	1	-	-	-	-
Michigan.....	83	10	8	7	5	21	9	14	6
Minnesota.....	87	7	5	5	6	7	2	2	6
Missouri.....	114	6	2	4	2	-	-	-	-
Nebraska.....	93	4	4	3	3	-	2	1	2
North Dakota...	53	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	88	4	3	4	4	5	11	8	10
South Dakota...	69	6	4	3	1	-	3	4	-
Wisconsin.....	71	4	3	2	2	3	7	9	-
Totals.....	1,176	75	53	49	37	86	44	56	29

In nearly every Central State assistant county agents, sometimes paid from other than Extension funds, gave considerable attention to the 4-H Club program.

A comparison of the total number of volunteer local 4-H Club leaders compared with the total number of clubs indicates that assistant local leaders are increasing in number.

Table 2.--Number of volunteer 4-H leaders, 1924-39

Year	Total number of clubs	Number of leaders				Total leaders
		Men	Women	Older club boys	Older club girls	
1924....	12,977	-	-	-	-	12,667
1929....	19,103	-	-	-	-	23,546
1930....	20,454	8,331	15,712	2,474	3,823	30,340
1934....	21,602	9,202	17,661	4,160	6,309	37,332
1939....	31,175	16,731	28,164	7,045	10,582	62,522

The great increase in the number of county conferences for 4-H leaders indicates that the States consider these conferences a most workable method of better preparing local 4-H Club leaders for the responsibilities they voluntarily assume.

Table 3.--County conferences for volunteer 4-H leaders, 1927-39

Year	Number of training meetings held for local 4-H leaders	Total leader attendance
1927.....	2,876	29,429
1929.....	3,959	43,916
1934	5,598	107,876
1939	9,466	198,817

III. 4-H CLUB ENROLLMENTS

Total enrollments may be used as one measuring stick in recording the achievements of the 4-H Clubs. Enrollment is indicative of the volume of the 4-H Club phase of extension work.

Table 4.--Total enrollments by States for 1939

State	Number of clubs	Boys enrolled	Girls enrolled	Total enrollment	Rank
Illinois.....	2,540	16,178	19,782	35,960	6
Indiana.....	2,849	20,876	32,499	53,375	2
Iowa.....	1,811	13,682	13,245	26,927	8
Kansas.....	1,074	11,349	11,613	22,962	10
Kentucky.....	1,511	18,379	22,618	40,997	5
Michigan.....	6,483	24,107	27,208	51,315	3
Minnesota.....	1,907	22,737	23,829	46,566	4

Table 4.-Total enrollments by States for 1939 continued

State	Number of clubs	Boys enrolled	Girls enrolled	Total enrollment	Rank
Missouri.....	2,205	11,008	14,845	25,853	9
Nebraska.....	2,856	9,739	11,593	21,332	11
North Dakota.....	911	3,615	6,051	9,666	13
Ohio.....	3,876	21,636	37,602	59,238	1
South Dakota.....	1,205	4,593	6,156	10,749	12
Wisconsin.....	1,947	116,742	217,410	34,152	7
Totals	31,175	194,641	244,451	439,092	

The total enrollment in the Central States for 1939 represented an increase of 165 percent over the enrollment for 1924. The increase for the United States was 170 percent for the same period.

Table 5. Increase in enrollments by States, 1924-39

State	Total enrollments				Percentage of increase, 1939 over 1924	Rank
	1939	1934	1929	1924		
Illinois.....	35,960	24,592	18,456	7,556	376	1
Indiana.....	53,375	39,315	25,628	15,300	249	4
Iowa.....	26,927	23,126	21,315	18,796	43	12
Kansas.....	22,962	18,996	11,029	5,866	291	2
Kentucky.....	40,997	23,649	21,592	17,332	136	10
Michigan.....	51,315	27,373	23,140	15,828	224	6
Minnesota.....	46,566	42,418	33,080	13,112	255	3
Missouri.....	25,853	11,490	12,698	8,228	214	7
Nebraska.....	21,332	14,311	11,226	7,550	182	8
North Dakota.....	9,666	5,170	4,025	2,794	246	5
Ohio.....	59,238	52,728	36,051	21,650	174	9
South Dakota.....	10,749	7,383	10,873	7,190	49	11
Wisconsin.....	34,152	30,820	25,651	24,436	40	13
Totals.....	439,092	321,371	254,764	165,638	165	-

It is to be expected that enrollment within a State will vary from year to year. The relative ranking, based on enrollments by States at five-year intervals, is shown in Table 6.

Table 6.-Ranking based on total enrollments, 1924-39

State	Rank in			
	1939	1934	1929	1924
Illinois.....	6	6	8	9
Indiana.....	2	3	3	6
Iowa.....	8	8	7	3
Kansas.....	10	9	11	12
Kentucky.....	5	7	6	4
Michigan.....	3	5	5	5
Minnesota.....	4	2	2	7

Table 6.-Ranking based on total enrollments, 1924-39 continued

State	Rank in			
	1939	1934	1929	1924
Missouri.....	9	11	9	8
Nebraska.....	11	10	10	10
North Dakota.....	13	13	13	13
Ohio.....	1	1	1	2
South Dakota.....	12	12	12	11
Wisconsin.....	7	4	4	1

Table 7.-Average number of 4-H members enrolled per county reporting, 1924-39

State	Average number 4-H members enrolled			
	1939	1934	1929	1924
Illinois.....	371	256	154	89
Indiana.....	580	442	288	204
Iowa.....	269	231	213	194
Kansas.....	223	204	127	136
Kentucky.....	342	252	178	202
Michigan.....	618	365	300	244
Minnesota.....	535	511	453	252
Missouri.....	235	151	176	142
Nebraska.....	254	181	212	157
North Dakota.....	190	140	134	90
Ohio.....	681	651	384	230
South Dakota.....	182	123	226	160
Wisconsin.....	502	482	401	611
Average for Region	385	314	243	205

The percentage of the total number of rural young people who are enrolled in 4-H Clubs provides another measuring stick of the achievements of the clubs.

Table 8.-Percentage of the total number of rural* boys and girls 10-20 years of age enrolled in 4-H Clubs, 1930-39

State	Percentage of rural boys and girls enrolled		
	1939	1934	1930
Illinois.....	8.50	5.82	5.81
Indiana.....	17.55	12.93	9.42
Iowa.....	8.40	7.21	7.59
Kansas.....	9.12	7.55	5.25
Kentucky.....	9.42	5.44	4.71
Michigan.....	15.44	8.24	7.79
Minnesota.....	15.58	14.19	11.66
Missouri.....	6.63	2.96	3.25
Nebraska.....	10.60	7.11	6.46
North Dakota.....	6.67	3.57	3.66
Ohio.....	13.06	11.62	8.04
South Dakota.....	8.18	5.62	7.86
Wisconsin.....	10.96	9.89	9.15
Percentage for Region	10.99	8.04	6.96

*Farm and non-farm, 1930 Census.

Table 9.-Regional enrollments and completions, 1915-39*

Year	Enrollment	Completions	Percentage of completions in Central States	Percentage of completions in United States
1915	78,497	28,353	---	---
1919	185,523	104,991	---	---
1924	165,638	108,814	65.69	55.51
1929	254,764	193,528	75.96	67.12
1934	321,371	253,459	78.87	71.15
1939	439,092	362,090	82.46	75.22

* Prior to 1923, project enrollments were reported. Since that year enrollments on the basis of different boys and girls have been reported.

Table 10.-Regional enrollments compared with United States Totals, 1924-39

Year	Total United States Enrollment	Total Central States enrollment	Percentage of United States total
1924	510,355	165,638	32.45
1929	756,096	254,764	33.69
1934	916,062	321,371	35.08
1939	1,381,595	439,092	31.78

IV. 4-H CLUB COMPLETIONS

The total number of 4-H members who successfully completed their work and the percentage of completions also are good measuring sticks of 4-H Club achievement. They may indicate the effectiveness of extension teaching with rural young people of 4-H Club age.

Table 11.-Total completions by States for 1939

State	Boys Completing	Girls Completing	Total Completions	Percentage of Completions	Rank
Illinois.....	12,383	17,616	29,999	83.42	6
Indiana.....	17,145	28,038	45,183	84.65	4
Iowa.....	11,737	11,108	22,845	84.84	3
Kansas.....	9,443	9,821	19,264	83.90	5
Kentucky.....	15,497	17,861	33,358	81.37	8
Michigan.....	20,770	24,220	44,990	87.67	2
Minnesota.....	19,849	21,210	41,059	88.17	1
Missouri.....	7,598	11,155	18,753	72.54	13
Nebraska.....	7,585	9,354	16,939	79.41	9
North Dakota.....	2,665	4,794	7,459	77.17	11
Ohio.....	16,746	31,801	48,547	81.95	7
South Dakota.....	3,806	4,685	8,491	78.99	10
Wisconsin.....	11,992	13,211	25,203	73.80	12
Totals.....	157,216	204,874	362,090	82.46	

The definite trend toward higher percentages of completions by States, as is shown in Table 12, is gratifying.

Table 12.—Percentage of completions by States, 1924-39

State	Percentage of completions			
	1939	1934	1929	1924
Illinois.....	83.42	84.95	79.5	66.38
Indiana.....	84.65	84.39	80.2	73.93
Iowa.....	84.84	84.02	86.5	74.60
Kansas.....	83.90	72.65	65.1	55.51
Kentucky.....	81.37	77.55	71.4	52.72
Michigan.....	87.67	82.11	76.0	64.92
Minnesota.....	88.17	79.16	80.0	76.05
Missouri.....	72.54	70.22	66.1	38.73
Nebraska.....	79.41	74.26	73.4	69.96
North Dakota.....	77.17	72.34	71.7	63.85
Ohio.....	81.95	80.06	82.2	71.49
South Dakota.....	78.99	58.05	64.1	46.26
Wisconsin.....	73.80	74.08	66.6	68.61
Average for region	82.46	78.87	75.96	65.39

It is also to be expected that percentage of completions within a State will vary from year to year. The relative ranking based on percentage of completions by States is shown in Table 13.

Table 13.—Ranking based on percentage of completions, 1924-39

	Rank in			
	1939	1934	1929	1924
Illinois.....	6	1	5	7
Indiana.....	4	2	3	3
Iowa.....	3	3	1	2
Kansas.....	5	10	12	10
Kentucky.....	8	7	9	11
Michigan.....	2	4	6	8
Minnesota.....	1	6	4	1
Missouri.....	13	12	11	13
Nebraska.....	9	8	7	5
North Dakota.....	11	11	8	9
Ohio.....	7	5	2	4
South Dakota.....	10	13	13	12
Wisconsin.....	12	9	10	6

For each year from 1924 to 1939, inclusive, the percentage of completions in the Central States has been higher than that for the United States. Annually since 1925 the percentage of completions in the Central States has been higher than that of any other region. The 1939 percentage of 82.46 is the highest recorded by any region since the present method of tabulating was established in 1923.

Table 14.-Regional completions compared with United States totals,
1924-39

Year	Percentage of completions				
	United States	Central	Eastern	Western	Southern
1924	55.51	65.69	66.38	65.53	44.68
1929	67.12	75.96	71.08	75.73	58.40
1934	71.15	78.87	76.96	77.54	61.94
1939	75.22	82.46	80.27	81.48	68.87

V. 4-H CLUB PROJECTS

During the 25-year period 1914 to 1939, certain 4-H projects were added as the need appeared.

Table 15 shows the relative ranking of the 15 projects that attracted the largest enrollment in 1939. It also shows that those projects which were in the "top half" in the earlier years tended to remain there in succeeding years. Both boys and girls were enrolled in every project reported in 1939.

Table 15.-Ranking of projects based on enrollments, 1924-39

Project	1939 Enrollment	Rank in 1939	Rank in 1934	Rank in 1929	Rank in 1924
Clothing	138,341	1	1	1	1
Food preparation	79,221	2	2	3	7
Swine	40,812	3	6	5	3
Poultry	34,669	4	5	4	2
Dairy cattle	30,157	5	3	2	6
Beef cattle	26,299	6	8	9	10
Home gardens	26,182	7	4	7	4
Food preservation	20,457	8	7	6	5
Handicraft	19,331	9	13	13	-
Sheep	18,298	10	11	12	11
Corn	18,121	11	10	8	9
House furnishing	14,588	12	12	11	12
Potato	11,556	13	9	10	8
Forestry	10,058	14	15	15	-
Beautification of home grounds	7,545	15	14	14	13

VI. 4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

Commensurate with the increase in the volume of 4-H Club membership was the growth in the number of demonstration and of judging teams trained and used as another method of teaching subject-matter as well as presenting to the public some of the achievements of the 4-H Clubs. These teams also aided in establishing good 4-H Club standards.

Table 16.-Number of demonstration and of judging teams trained,
1926-39.

Year	Number of demonstration teams trained	Number of judging teams trained
1926.....	5,023	2,089
1929.....	8,029	3,306
1934.....	13,741	7,353
1939.....	16,857	12,732

Table 17 shows that 4-H Camps are increasing in favor as another means of providing wholesome recreation for 4-H Club members.

Table 17.-Number of camps and member attendance, 1926-39.

Year	Number of camps	Member Attendance		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1926.....	525	-	-	25,659
1929.....	673	14,338	22,582	36,920
1934.....	572	14,517	18,842	33,359
1939.....	1,400	23,089	32,332	55,421

4-H Club tours provide an excellent means of maintaining the interest of club members. They also serve as a valuable method of studying project results and of acquainting other folks with the achievements of 4-H members.

The number of achievement days, as a means of bringing to a somewhat formal ending the work of the season, is increasing proportionately.

Table 18.-Number of tours and achievement days, 1930-39

Year	Number of tours conducted	Number of achievement days
1930	-	5,763
1934	2,205	5,475
1939	4,998	7,308

VII. STILL MORE 4-H CLUB FIGURES

Table 19.-Percentage of boys and of girls in total enrollment,
1924-39.

Year	Percentage in total enrollment	
	Boys	Girls
1924	41.8	58.2
1929	39.3	60.7
1934	40.73	59.27
1939	44.33	55.67

Table 20.-Percentage of all members according to age, 1930-39.

Age of member (years)	1939	1934	1930
10.....	11.5	10.74	10.97
11.....	12.4	11.94	12.06
12.....	14.4	14.79	15.71
13.....	14.3	14.64	15.45
14.....	13.4	13.37	14.71
15.....	11.4	11.24	11.77
16.....	9.2	9.17	8.79
17.....	6.5	6.43	5.55
18.....	3.8	4.15	3.03
19.....	2.0	2.31	1.36
20 and over.....	1.1	1.22	0.60

Table 21.-Percentage and sex of members according to age, 1930-39

Age (years)	Percentage of total enrollment			Percentage of total enrollment		
	Boys			Girls		
	1939	1934	1930	1939	1934	1930
10	10.12	9.15	10.13	12.55	11.82	12.03
11	11.04	10.58	11.31	13.48	12.87	13.03
12	13.00	13.22	14.68	15.58	15.86	16.65
13	13.43	13.65	14.66	15.07	15.32	15.98
14	13.33	13.31	14.89	13.41	13.42	14.53
15	11.96	12.08	12.55	10.89	10.66	11.01
16	10.09	10.54	9.58	8.46	8.24	7.88
17	7.68	7.69	6.38	5.52	5.57	4.76
18	4.98	5.17	3.58	2.96	3.46	2.51
19	2.77	3.05	1.59	1.35	1.80	1.13
20	1.60	1.56	0.65	0.73	0.98	0.49

Table 22.-Percentage of boys and of girls according to years in club, 1930-39

Years in club	1939		1934		1930	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	41.8	41.1	41.7	43.2	49.1	49.4
2	23.6	24.3	22.3	22.9	25.1	25.8
3	14.2	14.9	14.7	14.6	13.7	13.0
4	8.7	8.7	9.9	9.2	6.7	6.7
5	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.6	3.2	3.1
6 and over	6.4	5.6	5.6	4.5	2.2	2.0

Table 23.-Number of members in and out of school, 1930-39

Year	Number of members		
	In school	Out of school	Not accounted for
1930	214,816	15,821	47,562
1934	256,441	27,311	37,619
1939	404,998	34,094	-

Table 24.-Former 4-H members enrolled in agriculture and home economics
at State agricultural colleges, 1927-39

Year	Number of Central States reporting	Total number of former 4-H members enrolled in agriculture and home economics	Percentage of former 4-H members to the total student enrollment in agriculture and home economics
1927-28	12	751	18.5
1929-30	12	1,758	26.3
1933-34	13	2,335	31.36
1934-40	13	6,934	37.78

Table 1. Summary of results of the 1964-65 survey of the fishery resources of the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron area.

Year	Number of fish collected	Total weight of fish collected (kg)	Number of fish collected in the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron area
1964-65	10	1.2	10
1965-66	15	1.8	15
1966-67	20	2.4	20
1967-68	25	3.0	25

